



Press Release

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**CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON SELECTS LEAKE COUNTY
NATIVE AS UNSUNG HERO AWARD RECIPIENT**

BOLTON, MISSISSIPPI – Today, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced that Mrs. Winson Gates Hudson has been selected as the 2003 Second Congressional District Unsung Hero Award recipient. Mrs. Hudson is a native of Leake County and lives in City of Carthage, Mississippi in the Harmony community. She will receive the award at a banquet on Sunday, June 15, 2003 in Washington, D.C. during the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses Eleventh Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament.

Congressman Thompson said, "Winson Hudson deserves this recognition because she is truly an unsung hero in every sense of the word. Mrs. Hudson had the courage to put her life and her family's lives on the line during the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi."

Mrs. Hudson has been a member of the Leake County Branch NAACP since its organization in 1961. The Branch was organized in the Harmony community under the direction of the late Medgar Evers. It was born out of the efforts to keep the Harmony Vocational High School in the community. Mrs. Hudson was at the forefront of the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi. Marches and protests were staged to integrate eating facilities. Citizens were urged to register to vote. She traveled extensively throughout the United States speaking of the plight of African Americans in Mississippi. Mrs. Hudson has continued to work on the local, state, and national level to help African American citizens achieve justice in the courts, employment opportunities, improve schools, and obtain decent housing.

The Unsung Hero Awards Program is sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses. The program, now in its fourth year, recognizes those individuals who have made a noteworthy impact on the communities in which they live. For more information about the CBC Spouses Unsung Hero Awards Program, please contact Jakki Dennis or Nancy Vedrine at (202) 263-2840.

